



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0541

HCR 39
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW AND REPORT
LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICY GUIDELINES FOR USING
ANIMAL MANURES IN AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS

Statement for
House Committees on
Health
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - 11 March 1985

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center

HCR 39 would request that the Department of Health review the current State and National laws, regulations and policies that deal with the use of animal manures in aquaculture systems. This statement on the proposed resolution does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The rationale and intent of the proposed resolution are reasonable. We are familiar with a number of aquaculture farms in southeast Asia, China, and Europe in which the use of animal wastes, particularly pig manure, is standard practice in the raising of carp (considered a delicacy) for human consumption. We suggest, however, that, in order to carry out the requested study, the Department of Health may require additional personnel or funds.

Discussion at the hearing on the resolution held by your committees indicated appropriate concerns with the economics and possible health hazards of the use of animal manures in aquaculture systems. We note that the economic concerns should include, not only the cost and benefits of the use of the manures in aquaculture, but the costs and environmental detriments of present and alternative means of disposal of the manures. We note further that there are examples of the use of such manures in aquaculture that are, overall, economically profitable and that do not involve hazards to health. We suggest that, if an agency were to investigate the concerns generally, it should consult with personnel of the Aquaculture Development Program and those at the University having pertinent information.

The discussion also indicated, however, that there is uncertainty as to the combination of federal and state laws and regulations and DOH policies relating to the use of animal manures in aquaculture operations. It is, therefore, appropriate to request that the DOH itself review and report on these laws and regulations and its policies in accordance with HCR 39.